

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 58  
                                  Historic District/Residence

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: North shore Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT

                         Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
 UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:      NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station is a one-story, rectangular, log structure measuring 35x47', with an attached room at the northeast corner. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles and features a central, random-coursed ashlar chimney. The roof line extends south to form a full shed porch on four posts, with a flagstone patio. Grooved, saddle-notched logs are through the gable ends, with no exterior chinking. The interior walls are hewn logs. There are louvered ventilators in the gable ends. Fenestration includes framed four- to six-light casements, and two entries face south to the lake. The structure rests on a concrete foundation and is in good condition. This ranger station is a well-preserved example of rustic, Park Service-designed log architecture. It is similar in plan to stations at Belly River and Sherburne, with modifications of overall dimensions, fenestration, and porch features to accommodate space requirements and site demands. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1924

In 1921, \$100,000 was appropriated for initial construction of the Going-to-the-Sun Highway. The following year, the first 10-mile link had been completed, opening a road to the head of Lake McDonald.<sup>1</sup> With easy access into this previously isolated area of the Park, an administrative site soon became necessary. Since 1924, the Upper Lake McDonald ranger station has been seasonally manned.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Many of the structures at the ranger station originated from standard, approved plans designed by the National Park Service Landscape Architects Office. Similar buildings were constructed at other locations in Glacier Park and in other western national parks. For example, the Upper Lake McDonald ranger station is almost identical to the Belly River ranger station, and is similar to the Polebridge ranger residence. It is the

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STRUCTURE NAME: Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station  
Historic District/Residence

STRUCTURE NUMBER: 58

unique setting of each complex that causes a variety of appearances. The design is successful because these stations are compatible, non-intrusive elements in the environment. Likewise, structures identical or very similar to the boathouse, fire cache (now ranger cabin), and barn were constructed at other locations within the park. The Upper Lake McDonald ranger station presents a combination of park structure types within the matrix of an administrative site. Together, these otherwise loosely associated structures create a visitor contact area which is both unique and familiar. The establishment of the Upper Lake McDonald ranger station in 1924 and a 60-year site history illustrate the ongoing need to monitor a variety of park activities from planned locations. The Upper Lake McDonald ranger station meets criteria a and c for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places as a potential historic district. The ranger station/residence would be a significant, contributing element in a potential historic district.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

<sup>1</sup>"Historical Card File," GNPLA; Superintendent's Annual Report, 1922, Glacier National Park, p. 8.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Barn      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 309

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District  
                                  Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
                                  UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

## CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:		CATEGORY:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:	
				CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>			Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District				Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site				Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure				Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>			TOTAL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The structure is a 1½-story log barn with a concrete foundation; saddle-notched, grooved logs with rusticated, battered crowns; cross-braced Dutch entries; and a gable roof with pole rafters. There is a loft door in the gable end and a connected corral area. The exterior ridge log is deteriorated. This log barn is a significant component of the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station from the standpoints of both architecture and function. The building and attached corral are located north of the access road to the station, among foliage and trees.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1935

Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the site.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

## FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

12/31/85

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Woodshed      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 310

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District  
                                  Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
                                  UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:	
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The structure is a one-story, rectangular shed, measuring 25x16.5'. The wood-shingled gable roof has exposed rafter end tips of lumber and extends to the south, supported by three poles. Walls are timber-out framing with vertical board walls. The structure rests on a concrete pad foundation in the front, and rests on the ground and is slightly bermed to the rear. There is a solid wood door to the south and wood-shuttered windows to the east and west. The structure is in fair to good condition, with moss-covered shingles. Framing and walls appear to be in good condition. The scale, materials, and design of this woodshed are compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station. It contributes to the overall architectural significance of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1930

This woodshed was constructed in 1930, the same year that the Park built woodsheds at Kennedy Creek and Fish Creek ranger stations.<sup>1</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building contributes to the architectural significance of the potential historic district.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

<sup>1</sup>Superintendent's Annual Report, 1930, "Buildings," Glacier National Park.

FORM PREPARED BY:      DATE: June 1984  
                          NAME/TITLE:  
                          ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Boathouse      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 311

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District  
                                  Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
                                  UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:	
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The boathouse is a one-story, rectangular structure, measuring 14x26'. The timber-out frame construction has vertical board walls and double front doors with a ramp on timbers leading to the lake. The slabstone masonry foundation has cement mortar. The gable roof has wood shingles, three extended crown purlins, and covered pole rafter ends. The structure is in good condition, with some deterioration of the exterior ridge log. Inclusion of the boathouse at the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station makes this one of the most diverse stations (no other complex has both boathouse and barn). The scale, materials, and design of this boathouse are compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station. It contributes to the overall architectural significance of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934

The boathouse was constructed by local contractors Austin Weikert and Asa Powell under Public Works Project contract 1-4p-909. All materials except logs and gravel were supplied by the Park. The cost of the structure totalled \$185. Powell and Weikert also constructed an identical boathouse at this time at Fish Creek, at the foot of Lake McDonald.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The boathouse would be a contributing element in the proposed Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station Historic District.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

<sup>1</sup>"Final Construction Report, Boathouses," File D-34, GNPLA.

FORM PREPARED BY:      DATE: June 1984  
                          NAME/TITLE:  
                          ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Garage      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 312

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
Ranger Station Historic District

Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The structure is a one-story, rectangular, gable-roofed log garage, measuring 22x18' and resting on a wood beam alignment foundation with interior concrete floor. Unnotched logs are nailed to corner V-upright lumber. Framed fenestration includes four-light casements to the north, south, and west, and double entry doors centered to the east. The wood-shingled roof has exposed rafters beneath the eave and a metal stovepipe through the roof. There is a five-panel solid entry door to the south. The structure is in good condition. The scale, materials, and design of this garage are compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station. It contributes to the overall architectural significance of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1935

Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is not architecturally or historically significant. However, it is a contributing element in a potentially eligible Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY:      DATE: June 1984  
NAME/TITLE:  
ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Fire Cache      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 313

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District  
                                  Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
                                  UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Buildings
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<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This fire cache is a one-story, frame, rectangular, gabled structure on a corner stone pad foundation. Horizontal lapboard walls are through to the gable ends. There are four-light framed casement windows to the south and north, and a solid wood door is off-set on the east facade. The wood-shingled roof has rafter ends under the eave. There is a treble-light overdoor and a wood stoop. The structure measures 20x17' and is in good condition. The scale, materials, and design of this fire cache are compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station. However, since it is less than 50 years old and does not possess outstanding architectural or historical significance, it must be considered to be a non-contributing structure in the Historic District.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1939

Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is a non-contributing structure in the Historic District since it is less than 50 years old.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY:      DATE: June 1984  
                                  NAME/TITLE:  
                                  ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Cabin (original fire cache)      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 316

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District

                                 Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
 UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

## CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
		CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The structure is a one-story, rectangular log cabin with a gable roof, measuring 23x19'. The logs are saddle notched with wood strip chinking and square-cut crowns protected by eaves. The wood-shingled roof has nine log purlins. The roof flares to a slight over-door supported by log brackets, and there are log brackets on the eave corners. Framed fenestration has six-light casements in the gable ends and four-light sliding windows on the main floor. There is a newer, frame shed addition to the rear (east), measuring 6.5x10'. There is no apparent foundation. The structure is in fair to good condition, with some decay in two lower crowns on the north wall and roof shingles in poor condition with moss covering. The fire cache is an excellent example of local log craftsmanship, featuring saddle-notched and grooved logs. Its conversion to a fireguard cabin and minor alterations have not compromised the structure's integrity. However, since it is less than 50 years old and does not possess outstanding architectural or historical significance, it must be considered to be a non-contributing structure in the Historic District.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1936

Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building. However, the building was originally similar or identical to the fire cache at Kintla Lake, constructed by local contractor Harry Doverspike.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is a non-contributing element of the Historic District since it is less than 50 years old.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Pumphouse      STRUCTURE NUMBER:

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Upper Lake McDonald      QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT  
                                  Ranger Station Historic District  
                                  Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
                                  UTM A: 12 288360 5341220

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
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<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This recently constructed pumphouse is a one-story, rectangular structure on a concrete foundation, with a corrugated metal gable roof and lapboard walls. The structure measures 11x14' and is in good condition. This building is compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station and is a neutral, noncontributing element of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Recent

Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

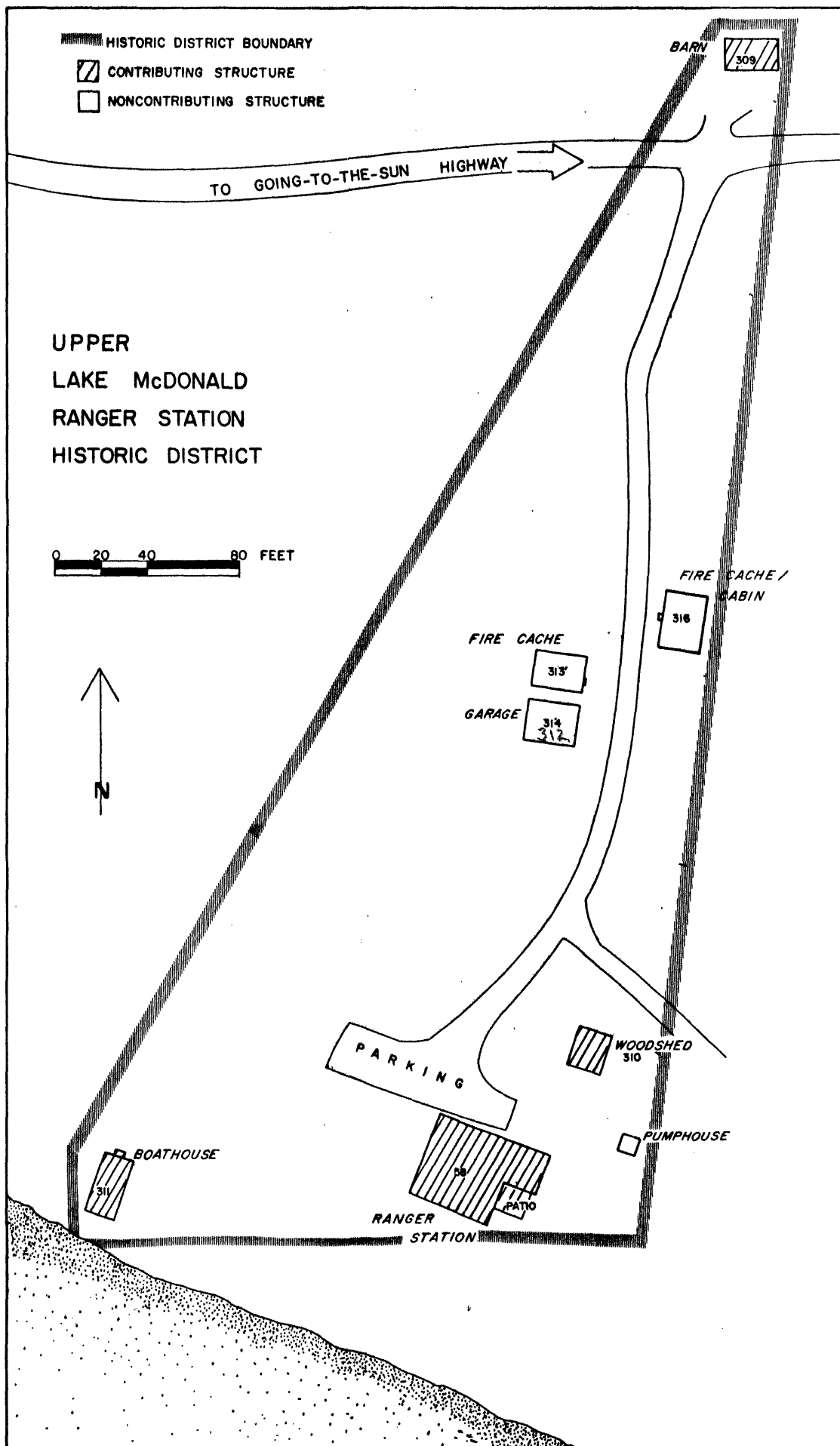
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This building does not meet the age criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. It is compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station and is a neutral, non-contributing element of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

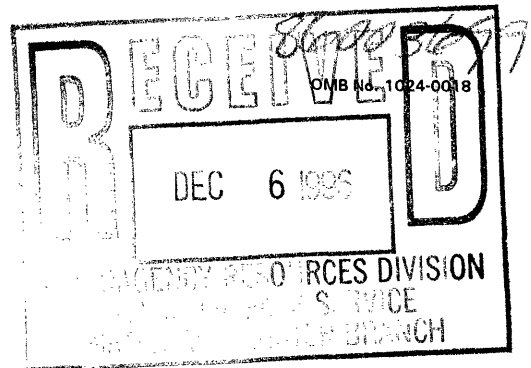
FORM PREPARED BY:      DATE: June 1984  
                                  NAME/TITLE:  
                                  ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

12/31/85



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Flathead County, MT.

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95  
Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]  
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995  
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

   entered in the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined not eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   removed from the National Register

   see continuation sheet

✓ other (explain) additional documentation

[Signature]

1/19/96

Additional Documentation Accepted

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**                      **5, 7**    **Page**    **2**                      **Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station Historic District  
(addendum), Flathead County, MT.**

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The following buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributors to the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station Historic District. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating building interiors for integrity and significance. In addition, firecache #313 and cabin/cache #316 were not yet 50 years old when the station was nominated in 1984 and were identified as noncontributing components. These building have been reevaluated and the resource count modified (see Section 5, Classification, below).

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property:</b> Public-Federal <b>Category of Property:</b> Historic District <b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> N/A	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>		
	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>	
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<b>building(s)</b>
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<b>sites</b>
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<b>structures</b>
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<b>objects</b>
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<b>Total</b>

**7. Narrative Description****Building Interiors****Ranger Station (#58), 1924**

Constructed — and still used — as an office and residence, this building features distinct administrative and domestic spaces. An exterior entrance provides direct access to the small office that forms the southwest corner of the building. A second entrance leads directly to the private living room, from which branches the kitchen and the single bedroom. A small pantry/dining area is located between the kitchen and the screened side porch. A small bathroom is located between the kitchen and bedroom and is accessible from both. With minor variations, this floorplan matches that found in the Sherburne Ranger Station and the Belly River Ranger Station and reflects the park service's increased reliance (1920s) upon standard plans. The building retains all dominant interior design elements, including much of the built-in cabinet work, cedar siding, wood floors, paneled doors with original hardware, and stained 4"-6" window surrounds, door surrounds, and baseboards. Plastic electric-wire conduit is exposed; light switches are dated. These features postdate the early 1950s, when the building did not yet have electricity. Individual rooms are described below.

Both front elevation exterior doors feature original hardware, a small four-light fixed-sash window, and are constructed of wide tongue-and-groove planks. The east door leads to the living room where the original

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

<b>Section number</b>	<b>5, 7</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Flathead County, MT.</b>
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varnished 2" inch oak flooring remains exposed. Walls are finished with cedar siding, each section — or shake — approximately 3' long, laid vertically and finished with narrow (2") horizontal frame battens; this siding is unique to this ranger station — located in a cedar grove — and conforms to rustic architecture's principal tenant to subordinate resources to their surroundings. Although the ceiling is dropped, log purlins remain exposed, topped with cedar planks. Stained 6" rough-cut knotty pine forms the baseboards. Door and window surrounds, also stained pine, are 4" and are butt-jointed rather than mitered. A fireplace, centered within the interior wall, is constructed of glazed irregularly-shaped lake stone; a floor level hearth is also lake stone and a 4" wood plank, darkly stained, forms the mantle. A modern metal fire insert represents the only modern incongruous feature in this spectacular room. There is no door between the living room and the kitchen. Two-panel varnished doors lead from the living room to the office and to the bedroom.

The office is unmodified. Like the living room, narrow oak planks cover the floor and pole purlins, topped with cedar planks, form the low ceiling. Cedar siding covers the walls; in contrast to the frame battens in the living room, the horizontal battens are formed of small 1/2 round poles. A ribbon of six-light by six-light casement windows line the west elevation of the office; combined with the original stained window surrounds, this fenestration forms a dominant design element. A built-in pine and cedar cupboard, with original hardware, is located in the northeast corner of the room. The four-light exterior door matches that found in the living room.

The single bedroom features 4" fir floors, varnished. Molding matches that found in the office and living room and, in conjunction with the numerous multi-light windows, forms a dominant design element. A bank of built-in cupboards lines the south wall. These cupboards retain the original hardware and are stained, in stark contrast to the painted plywood panels that cover the walls and ceiling.

The bathroom, accessed via two-panel stained doors from the bedroom and from the kitchen, is finished with rolled vinyl flooring and painted sheetrock walls and ceiling. Molding is also painted. While the porcelain sink appears to be historic, the toilet and bath are modern.

Painted plywood panels with 2" battens cover the walls and ceiling of the kitchen. Molding, 4"-6", is also painted. The built-in cupboard units are of two different styles: doors of upper units are paneled and feature original hardware, painted. Doors and drawers on lower units are unpaneled and feature simple stainless steel pulls — a design prevalent in the park. The formica countertop and stainless steel sink are modern, as is the electric range (replacing the original coal-fired stove) and the refrigerator (replacing the original kerosene refrigerator). The small (6" square) linoleum tiles extending from the kitchen to the breakfast nook are not original yet appear to have been in place for years.

The pantry/eating area, defined as a "breakfast nook" in ca. 1951 maintenance files, features a double bank of paneled cupboards along the north wall. Six-light by six-light casement windows dominate the south (lake view) elevation. A drop table, on hinges, and associated wood benches are located below the windows.

A stained two-panel door leads from the breakfast nook to the screened side porch. Here, the ceiling is open, exposing the log truss system. Door and window frames are formed with log, with the exception of the painted 4" milled-lumber trim on the door between the porch and the breakfast nook. The floor is covered with

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4" fir, painted, and features a plank drop door that provided access to the cement-lined cellar. A weighted pulley, extending to the exterior, holds the door open.

There have been no significant modifications to this building. It is an excellent example of 1920s rustic interior design.

**Barn (#309), 1935**

Like the Cut Bank, Walton, Nyack and St. Mary Utility Area barns, this building was constructed from standard drawing NP-GLA 3077: "Log Barn for Ranger Station." The barn retains its original floor plan, with the large lower level room divided into stalls and a feed room and the entire upper level devoted to hay storage. Door styles vary from barn to barn, suggesting that construction crews modified the plans to fit their skills and the materials at hand.

Three-inch x ten-inch pine planks cover the ground-level floor. Windows and doors are not finished with surrounds; the exposed wood frames are flush with the log walls. The walls are tightly notched log, with 1" x 8" dimensional lumber, spaced 2" apart, used for the stall partition. Feed troughs, centered along the exterior wall of each stall, are also constructed of 8" planks. A hay drop (see below) is centered above each trough.

The tack/feed room is separated from the larger interior space by 8" planks (no joint) and log corner posts. The door to the feed room is constructed of two layers of t-and-g siding: vertical on the interior and horizontal on the exterior. This door retains the historic hinge, latch and handle. The feed room floor is constructed of concrete and the exterior walls and ceiling are finished with horizontal shiplap.

The first-floor ceiling is formed of 8" planks (the hayloft floor) atop exposed log purlins. The hayloft is accessed by an interior ladder extending through a 2' x 2' crawlspace. Eight-inch shiplap covers the walls and 2" x 8" pine planks form the floor (hay drops are strategically located in the loft floor, directly above each ground floor feed trough). The ceiling is unfinished, exposing the log rafters and dimensional lumber tie beams of the roof structural system. The hayloft door is constructed of tongue and groove planks, secured with interior cross braces.

The electric system consists of historic heavy button switches and glass and metal bulb cages. Although dated, this system is not historic: 1954 maintenance records report the barn did not have electricity.

**Woodshed (#310), 1930**

As during the historic period, the floors of this simple utilitarian building are graveled and the ceiling is open, exposing the dimensional-lumber truss system. The interior walls are finished with the large (10") vertical boards that also form the exterior siding. The log framing system is exposed on the exterior. The lower 3' feet of two interior walls are finished with 8" planks, designed to protect the structure from the stress of the wood load. Wood bins are constructed of both heavy (2" x 10") planks, "2 x 4s," and roughly-peeled log poles.

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**Boathouse (#311), 1934**

The boathouse, a simple, one-room building, features unfinished 10" plank floors surrounding the dropped boat bay. The interior walls are finished with heavy board (10") and batten (3") siding. This siding is the interior of the exterior siding; the log framing system is exposed on the exterior. The ceiling is unfinished, exposing the log rafters, truss system, and roofing planks.

**Fire Cache (#313), 1939**

Ten-inch painted planks cover the floor of the fire cache. Interior walls are unfinished, exposing the dimensional-lumber framing system and the 12" lapped exterior siding. In contrast to other historic fire caches in the park, this building is used strictly for storage rather than as a seasonal or temporary housing unit. A plywood peg board dominates the north wall. A storage loft is located in the west gable end.

**Garage (#312), 1935**

Hewn logs, with liberal chinking, form the interior walls of this simple one-room building. Ten-inch planks, laid perpendicular to the vehicular entry, cover the floor. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the frame truss system and 10" roof planks. A storage loft has been constructed in the west "attic" space. A six-panel pedestrian door offset within the south elevation is partially covered with a park map and is no longer in use.

**Fire Cache/Cabin (#316), 1936**

Constructed in 1936 as a fire cache, this building was converted post 1954 to a cabin for seasonal employees. The interior was inaccessible at the time of survey and has not been evaluated.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Building Interiors**

With the exception of unevaluated cabin #316, the interiors of all buildings within the Upper Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District contribute to the buildings' significance. The ranger station in particular is a spectacular example of the principles of rustic architecture applied to interior spaces. The barn and the boathouse are also exceptional examples of unmodified rustic and simplified-rustic interiors, as they appeared during the historic period.

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**Reevaluated Buildings**

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**Fire Cache #313, 1939**

In the original 1984 nomination, the fire cache was determined to be of a scale and design "compatible with the more significant buildings of the ranger station. However, since it is less than 50 years old and does not possess outstanding architectural or historical significance [as per criteria consideration G], it must be considered to be a non-contributing [sic] structure in the Historic District." The building is now 50 years old, plays an integral role in development of the station and in administration of the Lake McDonald area, and is now a contributing component of the district.

**Fire Cache/Cabin #316, 1936**

In the original nomination, this building was determined to be "an excellent example of local log craftsmanship, featuring saddle-notched and grooved logs. Its conversion to a fireguard cabin and minor alterations have not compromised the structure's integrity. However, since it is less than 50 years old and does not possess outstanding architectural or historical significance, it must be considered to be a non-contributing structure in the Historic District."

The building is now 50 years old, plays an integral role in development of the station and in administration of the Lake McDonald area, and is now a contributing component of the district.

**Photographs**

- 1) Photographer:                      Ann Hubber and Nancy Niedernhofer  
2) Date of Photographs:              Sept. 1992, Sept. 1993 (#13-15)  
3) Location of Negatives:            National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	Ranger Station (#58)	Fireplace (living room)
2	Ranger Station (#58)	Living room entry
3	Ranger Station (#58)	Office
4	Ranger Station (#58)	Kitchen
5	Ranger Station (#58)	Bedroom
6	Barn (#309)	Log interior walls
7	Barn (#309)	Tack room
8	Woodshed (#310)	Interior
9	Woodshed (#310)	Interior



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PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	DIRECTION OF VIEW
10	Boathouse (#311)	Interior
11	Garage (#312)	Interior
12	Garage (#312)	Interior
13	Fire Cache (#313)	Interior